

ANGEL ISLAND

STATE PARK



GRAY DAVIS
Governor

MARY D. NICHOLS
Secretary for Resources

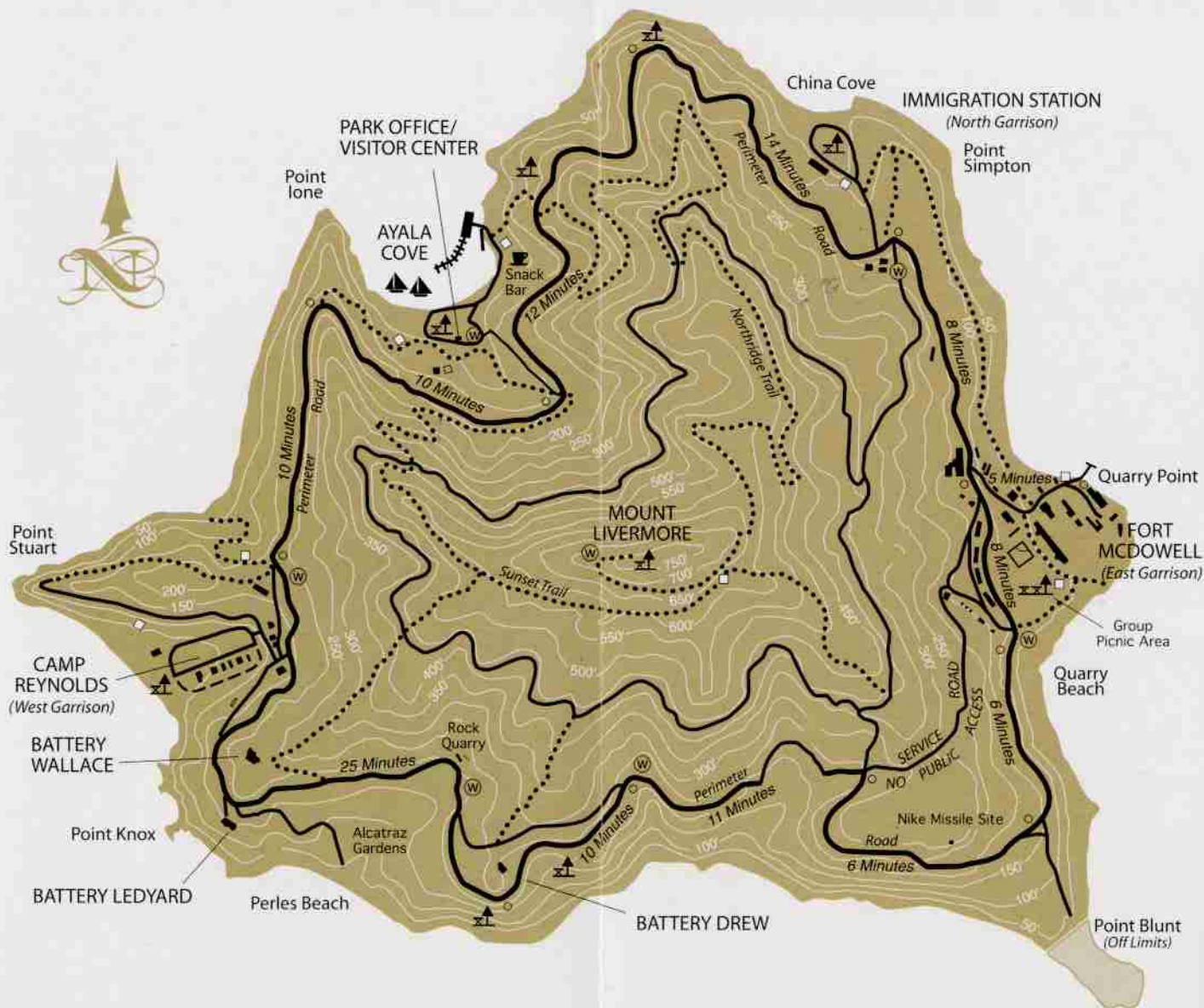
RUSTY AREIAS
Director, California State Parks



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Angel Island STATE PARK

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Tiburon, CA 94920
(415) 435-1915
www.angelisland.org



- — ○ MINUTES FROM POINT TO POINT
- ROADS; WALKING & BICYCLING
- ▲ MOORING BUOYS
- WALKING TRAIL ONLY
- RESTROOMS
- Ⓢ DRINKING WATER
- ▲ PICNIC AREAS

NOTE: For your safety, some paved roads have been designated for pedestrian use only. Some unpaved fire roads are open to pedestrian and bicycle use.



PLANNING YOUR VISIT

Check with the following for ferry schedules to the Island:

Tiburon-Angel Island Ferry Company (415) 435-2131
Blue and Gold Fleet (415) 773-1188

- Picnic areas are available with tables, running water and barbecues. To reserve tables for groups of 35 or more, call (800) 444-PARK (7275). The island has nine environmental campsites, each with a table, food locker, running water, pit toilet and barbecue. Campers must carry their equipment two miles to reach the campsites. For camping reservations call (800) 444-PARK (7275).
- Boat slips are available from 8:00 a.m. until sunset. Mooring buoys are available for overnight use. Both the slips and mooring buoys are first-come, first-served, and fees are collected.
- Dogs, roller skates, roller blades, skateboards and wood fires are not permitted on the island.
- Tours of historic sites are given by State Park docents on weekends May through October. Requests for group tours may be made by calling the Angel Island Association at (415) 435-3522.
- The island has more than 12 miles of trails and roadways for hiking and bicycling. Foot trails and Mount Livermore are closed to bicycles. Helmets are required for cyclists age 17 and under.



View of Alcatraz Island and San Francisco

Angel Island is a hilly, grass- and forest-covered island that provides spectacular views of Marin County, San Francisco and the Golden Gate. In addition, it is rich in historical significance. For thousands of years, it was used by Miwok Indians as a fishing and hunting site. For almost 100 years—stretching from the Civil War to the Cold War—the island housed a variety of military installations. It also played a major role in the settlement of the West and as an immigration station. Today, trails and roads criss-cross the land, providing easy access to many historic sites and breath-taking views.

Beaches

The beaches at Quarry Point and Ayala Cove are both sandy and protected from the afternoon breezes that so often blow in from the ocean through the Golden Gate. Quarry Beach is especially pleasant for sunbathing. However, there are no lifeguards, and swimming can be hazardous because of poor water quality and the very strong currents that run past the island with each change of tide. The water at Perle's Beach is considerably rougher, and the beach is more exposed to wind and weather. However, the view is spectacular, making Perle's Beach a delightful place for walking and general beachcombing.

Trails

Foot trails and roads circle the entire island and climb to the 781-foot-high summit of Mount Caroline Livermore. Special caution should be used around the unmaintained historic buildings and in the vicinity of the bluffs, which tend to erode easily and provide unreliable footing. The main trails are well marked and are designed to avoid most hazards, including the poison oak that is native to the region.

Bicycles can be used on the island-circling system of main roads and can be brought to the island on the ferry boats. Foot

trails and the road to Mount Livermore are closed to bicycles for safety and resource protection. A concessionaire operates a cafe and tram tours during the summer and by special arrangement during the rest of the year.



Natural History

Before the influence of human residence and use, the flora and fauna of Angel Island were very similar to those of nearby mainland areas in Marin County. North- and east-facing slopes were covered with oak woodland, while native grasses and north coast scrub were predominant on west- and south-facing slopes. Indian use of fire almost certainly accounts for the extension of grassland environment and the restriction of forest and brush land that is apparent in early paintings and photographs of the island.

In the nineteenth century, a number of highly aggressive European grasses (mostly annuals) began to replace the native grasses (mostly perennials), and firewood cutters chopped down much of the oak forest on the northeast side of the island. Native trees and shrubs have now recovered to a large

extent and can be found prospering along with a wide variety of plants introduced to the island by military personnel and others during the last century. Oak, bay, buckeye and madrone trees, sagebrush, chamise, manzanita, toyon, elderberry and coyote brush are native to the island. Eucalyptus, Monterey pine, Douglas fir, Monterey cypress, black locust, Australian tea trees, Portuguese cork oaks and other trees and shrubs were planted on the island by the military. Wildflowers are abundant.

Animal and bird life is wonderfully diverse; both land and seashore species can be seen. Seals and sea lions can sometimes be seen and heard, and deer and raccoons



live on the island. Birds that are often seen include robins, scrub jays, sparrows, juncos, hummingbirds, flickers, hawks, owls, seagulls, ducks, egrets, grebes, scoters and kingfishers. Blue herons, brown pelicans, and many other waterfowl can be seen feeding offshore or flying over the island. Salmon, striped bass and other fish migrate through Racoon Strait. The island is also notable for the animals that are not found there. For example, there are no squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits, foxes, skunks, opossums or coyotes.

Creation of the Park



Caroline Livermore

The movement to make Angel Island into a public park got underway in 1947 and 1948, after the federal government declared it surplus property. A thorough study of the island's historical background was carried out by the National Park Service. In 1954, after various delays, a number of citizen groups, including the Angel Island

Foundation and the Marin Conservation League, were able to persuade the State Park Commission to acquire about 37 acres surrounding Ayala Cove. Meanwhile, however, the U.S. Army had selected the island as a site for a Nike missile launching facility and radar control station. Despite this partial reoccupation of the island by the army, additional acreage above the cove was acquired by the State Park System in 1958, and the mountaintop itself was renamed Mount Caroline Livermore, in honor of the dedicated Marin County conservationist who led the campaign to create Angel Island State Park.

In 1962, the Nike missile base on the south side of the island was deactivated, and the army once again left the island. In December of that year, the entire island was turned over to the State of California for park purposes, with the exception of the Coast Guard stations on Point Blunt and Point Stuart, which continue in active operation to this day.



Nike Missile site



THE HISTORY OF ANGEL ISLAND

The Indians on Angel Island

Native American use of the island began some two thousand or more years ago, when people first began to live in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Coast Miwok Indians, who lived in what is now Marin County, reached the island in boats made from tule reeds. Some of these boats could carry from eight to ten people. Though they tended to become waterlogged after prolonged use, these boats were adequate for short trips because their lightness made them fast and maneuverable. Long poles were used to propel the boats in shallow water; double-ended paddles were used in deep water.

Miwok Indians established camps at what are now Ayala Cove, Camp Reynolds, Fort McDowell and the Immigration Station. The Indians using the island were expert at fishing, and also hunted deer, seals, sea lions and sea otter. Several kinds of fish and shellfish were available year-round, and salmon and other highly prized fish were seasonally plentiful. The annual spawning runs were made through Racoon Strait, just offshore from the island. The Indians also hunted ducks and other sea fowl, and gathered acorns, buckeyes and other seed crops, as well as certain roots and leaves, in order to round out their varied diet.

The Spanish Era

In August 1775, Lt. Juan Manuel de Ayala brought his sailing ship, the *San Carlos*, into San Francisco Bay and anchored in what is now Ayala Cove. His mission was to develop an accurate description of the bay that future Spanish ship captains could rely on. Ayala's pilot, Jose de Canizares, explored the bay in the ship's launch, and did the necessary map work—the first maps ever made of the magnificent and

now world-famous harbor. The *San Carlos* remained at anchor beside the little island that Ayala christened Isla de Los Angeles, following a practice then common among Catholic explorers of naming sites for the religious feast days nearest to the time of discovery.



The San Carlos

In the early years of the nineteenth century, Angel Island was probably uninhabited. The Indians had all been drawn into Mission San Francisco de Asis (Mission Dolores in San Francisco) or driven out of the region. After 1808, Russian sea otter hunting expeditions visited the island, establishing a storehouse there. In 1814, the British 26-gun sloop-of-war, the *HMS Racoon*, was damaged off the coast of Oregon, but managed to stay afloat long enough to reach San Francisco Bay. In March and April of that year, the ship was repaired on the beach at Ayala Cove. Today, the deep-water channel between Tiburon and Angel Island is named Racoon Strait, in honor of the old British sailing ship.

Volunteer cannoners fire a replica of the late 1800s Mountain Howitzer cannon on weekends.



In 1837, Antonio Maria Osio asked the governor of California to give Angel Island to him for use as a cattle ranch. In his capacity as military commandant of Alta California, General Vallejo endorsed the petition with the proviso that some of the island be reserved for harbor defense. Osio's grant was approved by the

governor in 1839, and thereafter he kept up to 500 head of cattle on the island. He had several houses built for his herders and other attendants, although he himself never lived on the island.

United States Development of Angel Island

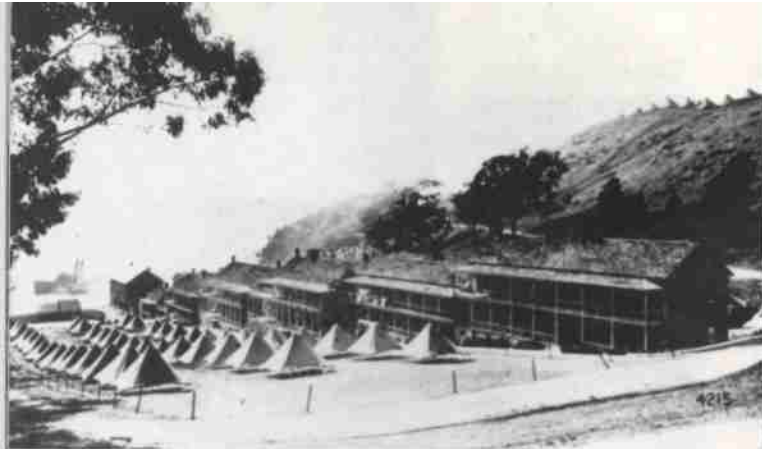
After 1846 and the war between Mexico and the United States, Osio's title was disputed by the U.S. Government, and a number of squatters took up residence on Angel Island. In the early 1850s, a quarry was developed on the island's east shore, and high-quality sandstone was carved out of the cliffs above Quarry Point for use at Mare Island and elsewhere. San Francisco's original Bank of California, for example, was made of stone from the quarry on Angel Island. The quarry continued in operation until the 1920s, finally reducing the cliff to the present-day site of the parade ground at Fort McDowell.

The controversy over Osio's claim was finally settled in 1859, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled his title invalid. Thus, the island officially became the property of the federal government and was used as a U.S. military base, quarantine station and immigration facility.

The Army on Angel Island

With concern mounting over threats to the Bay Area from Confederate sympathizers and naval forces, the federal government established Camp Reynolds (West Garrison) on Angel Island in 1863. Artillery batteries were built near the





West Garrison

camp and at Points Stuart, Knox and Blunt. After the Civil War, Camp Reynolds became an infantry camp, serving as a depot for recruits and as a staging area for troops serving in campaigns against the Apache, Sioux, Modoc and other Indian tribes. In 1886, a report critical of Pacific Coast harbor defenses led to development of new gun batteries on the southwest side of the island, facing the Golden Gate. Batteries Ledyard, Wallace and Drew (the remains of which

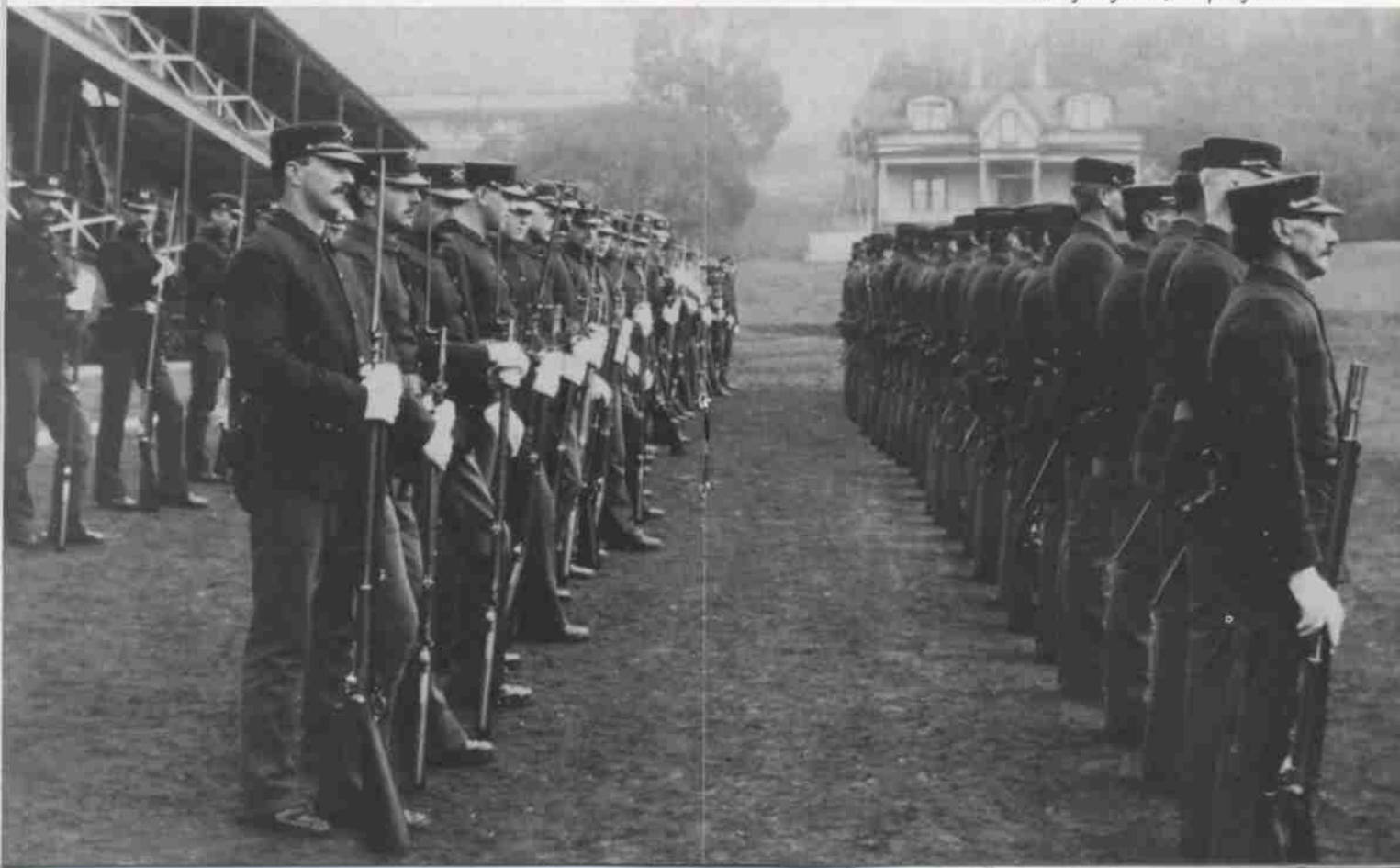


Barrack Interior

are visible today) were in operation by 1904, but were decommissioned as obsolete just five years later.

U.S. Army presence on the island increased significantly in 1899, when a detention camp was built at Fort McDowell on the eastern end of the island. This new facility made it possible to isolate troops who had been exposed to contagious diseases while serving overseas in the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection.

1st Infantry 1892, Camp Reynolds



In 1900, the army designated the entire island as Fort McDowell and referred to various installations with geographic designations. Camp Reynolds thus became West Garrison, the Immigration Station was North Garrison, and what we know today as Fort McDowell was called East Garrison. Today, visitors and staff generally use descriptive rather than geographic names. In this booklet, for example, Fort McDowell refers only to the facilities the army would have called East Garrison.

The new facility at Fort McDowell grew quickly from a detention camp to a discharge depot, and by 1905, some 87,000 men had passed through it on their way back and forth to the Pacific.

In 1910 and 1911, Fort McDowell was expanded into a major facility for receiving recruits and processing military personnel for overseas assignment. Construction included a huge 600-person barracks, a mess hall and a hospital. During the next few years, this new construction made Fort McDowell the largest Army processing center on the West Coast.

In 1917, following the U.S. declaration of war on Germany, the facilities at Fort McDowell were put to heavy use, and even the Immigration Station (North Garrison) was pressed into service as a prison for "enemy aliens" (most of them German citizens) who had been arrested on board ships in West Coast harbors. These men were later transferred to permanent detention quarters in North Carolina.



Soldiers lined up at the mess hall at Fort McDowell.



In 1918, Angel Island was used as a debarkation and discharge point for troops returning from the war. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, the busy Fort McDowell area inducted, discharged or handled the transfer of about 40,000 men per year—more than were processed by any other U.S. military post during those years. The reason for much of this activity was that from 1900 to 1941, the only U.S. military bases outside the continental United States were in the Pacific (the Philippines, Hawaii, the Panama Canal Zone, etc.), and Fort McDowell was the nation's only military overseas processing station. Because of this overseas orientation, the ordinary, routine military life of the fort acquired a unique and distinctly international atmosphere.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and the outbreak of World War II, the Immigration Station was turned into a prisoner-of-war processing facility. Before the war was over, hundreds of Japanese and German prisoners were temporarily detained here. At the same time, Fort McDowell itself served as a major point of embarkation for troops headed toward the Pacific war zone. Temporary barracks and other structures were built, an anti-aircraft artillery and searchlight station was manned atop the mountain, and a large new mess hall and other facilities were constructed in the Immigration Station area.

As troops began to return home, a 60-foot-high illuminated "Welcome Home, Well Done" sign was erected on the south-facing slope of the island. The rush continued into 1946 and then tapered off rapidly, so that in July of that year, the army decided to close down Fort McDowell and declare the entire island surplus property.

THE IMMIGRATION STATION

In 1905, construction of an Immigration Station began in the area then known as North Garrison. Surrounded by public controversy from its inception, the station was finally put into partial operation in 1910. It was designed to handle the flood of European immigrants who were expected to begin arriving in California once the Panama Canal was opened. International events after 1914, including the outbreak of World War I, cancelled the expected rush of Europeans, but Asians continued to arrive on the West Coast and to go through immigration procedures. In fact, most of the immigrants processed on Angel Island were Chinese.

Immigrants arriving on the docks



Pier leading to the Immigration Station



At the far right, Katherine Maurer, Methodist deaconess, assists newly arrived immigrants.

The influx of Asians into the United States, dating from the California Gold Rush, created tension between the Asians and other immigrants. During the 1870s, an economic downturn resulted in serious unemployment problems, and led to outcries against Asian immigrants who would work for low wages. Restrictive immigration laws were passed that allowed entry only to those who had been born in the U.S. or had husbands or fathers who were citizens. Enforcement of those laws was assigned to the Bureau of Immigration.

When it opened in 1910, the new detention facility on Angel Island was considered ideal because of its isolation. There were buildings to house and care for detainees, a pier and regular boat service to the mainland. During the next 30 years, this was the point of entry for most of the approximately 175,000 Chinese immigrants who came to the United States. Most of them were detained on Angel Island from two weeks to six months. A few, however, were forced to remain on the island for as long as two years.

Interrogations could take a long time to complete, especially if witnesses had to be called. Some detainees expressed their feelings in poetry that they carved into the wooden walls of the detention center. Others simply waited, hoping for a favorable response to their appeals but fearing deportation. Many of the poems that were carved into the walls of the center are still legible today.

In 1940, the government decided to abandon the Immigration Station on Angel Island. Their decision was hastened by a fire that destroyed the administration building in August of that year. On November 5, the last group of about 200 aliens (including about 150 Chinese) was trans-



Japanese picture brides

ferred from Angel Island to temporary quarters in San Francisco. The so-called "Chinese Exclusion Acts," which were adopted in the early 1880s, were repealed by federal action in 1943, because by that time China was an ally of the U.S. in World War II.

Today, most visitors to Angel Island find the Immigration Station quite interesting. While often called the Ellis Island of the West, the Angel Island Immigration Station was, in fact, quite different. Arrivals at Ellis Island were welcomed to this country and screened primarily for medical reasons. At Angel Island, on the other hand, the objective was to exclude new arrivals. The memories of many returning visitors are therefore bittersweet. A museum has been established in the old barracks building. It includes a re-creation of one of the dormitories and features some of the poems that were carved into the Station's walls.



The Quarantine Station

In 1891, a Quarantine Station was opened at Ayala Cove (then known as Hospital Cove), where ships from foreign ports could be fumigated, and immigrants suspected of carrying diseases could be kept in isolation. The warship *USS Omaha* was obtained from the Navy in 1893, and its boilers were used to supply superheated steam for fumigation. The 40 buildings at the cove included a 400-bed detention barracks, a disinfecting plant, laboratories and quarters for employees.

As the years passed, use of the Quarantine Station diminished. Better medical examinations were made at ports of embarkation, and improved medical practices made lengthy quarantines unnecessary. As an island isolated from the mainland, the station was inconvenient and expensive to maintain. It was abandoned when the U.S. Public Health Service, which succeeded the old U.S. Marine Health Service, moved its headquarters to San Francisco. Most of the old quarantine buildings were torn down in the late 1950s, after the Ayala Cove area became a state park. Those remaining include the former attendants' quarters (now a park museum) and several employee residences which are now used by state park personnel.



DISCOVER CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

For general State Park information, contact the Information Office at P. O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001, or call (916) 653-6995. Visit our website at www.cal-parks.ca.gov.

To make camping reservations, call 1-800-444-PARK (7275).

Visitors with disabilities should contact the park office to determine if their specific needs can be met.